C L A I M S

What is claimed is:

1. In an image-method procedure for automated contrast
modification of digital image data in which at least a low
and a high-frequency signal component are formed from the
image signal of the image data; the low-frequency signal
component is modified according to a characteristic-curve
function; and then the modified, low-frequency signal
component is then added to the high-frequency signal
component, the improvement wherein the low-frequency signal
component to be modified is formed in dependence upon high-
frequency image components derived from the image data.

2. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein
the filter frequency used to form the low-frequency signal
component is varied in dependence upon the high-frequency
image components.

3. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 2, wherein
the filter frequency used to form the low-frequency signal
component is varied in dependence upon the local frequency
spectrum of the image.

4. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a high-frequency signal component is added to the low-frequency signal component in the region of high-frequency image components.

5. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the high-frequency image components are determined using an edge-detection process.

6. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the high-frequency image components are determined from Fourier transforms of the digital image data.

7. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the high-frequency image components are determined from the compressed image data.